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FLP-D-10
15 April 1957

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

I. Authority

The Advisory Committee on Foreign Language Publications was established in pursuance of paragraph 5 of NSCID-16 (7 March 1953) to assist the Director of Central Intelligence in the implementation of that Directive. The Committee is composed of representatives of the IAC agencies and can invite other interested agencies to sit with it on matters which concern them. Chairmanship is provided by CIA.

II. Organization

Three subcommittees have been established which comprehend in general the responsibilities separately identified in the Directive and which are listed below. However, as the IAC had established in 1955 an Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Information Processing (AHIP) whose function covered all categories of intelligence source materials, the Reference Subcommittee was directed on 13 January 1956 to suspend further meetings and consolidate its function with AHIP as long as the latter continues in existence.

III. Responsibilities, Accomplishments and Objectives

A. PROCUREMENT

1. Responsibility: To assist the Director of Central Intelligence in insuring the coordination of the procurement of foreign language publications for intelligence purposes, it being understood that captured documents are excepted from this provision.

2. Projects Completed:

a. Efforts to coordinate requirements in Washington and collection in the field. The Chairman and the Secretary of the Subcommittee made a survey trip during the period 4 September - 26 November 1956, visiting all full-time Publications Procurement Officers, excepting Moscow, and many part-time PPOs. A separate account of this trip has been provided to all agencies.

b. Development of a single fund concept for (1) serial subscriptions and (2) books and monographs at Embassy Moscow for all member agencies under the IAD program. It was the intent in the Third Annual Report and is the intent now in this Report that the single fund concept include only the following agencies: CIA, State, Army Map Service, National Medical Library, Department of Agriculture, National Security Agency, and not to include the Department of Defense.

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During part of October - December 1956, [REDACTED] who replaced Mr. Royce Lowry as PPO at Moscow in late January 1957, was detailed to the Acquisitions Branch of CIA Library to acquaint him with the procedures of the Branch in coordinating the various requirements for USSR publications. [REDACTED] expressed particular interest in developing the single fund concept, and sought the reactions of agencies and departments in the program. Having received general concurrence from them in the soundness of the idea, he brought the matter to the attention of the Department of State. The Department is currently determining the legal and fiscal points involved.

c. Determination of the role of exchange programs in publications procurement. Exchanges present opportunities to acquire foreign publications not available through any other channel. The Subcommittee considered certain aspects of the exchange program during the year. Individual agency exchange programs were continued and in many cases expanded.

d. Determination of the advisability of reporting by each member agency concerning the scope and product of its foreign publications procurement program. The vehicle and schedule for reporting by member agencies to the Subcommittee concerning the scope and product of their programs for procurement of foreign publications continues to be under study. (See paragraph III.3.a. below.)

e. USIA is taking an increasingly active role in reporting on availability of foreign publications. For example, recently a study was made by USIA, Hong Kong, in which the Communist Chinese press in Peking was described. Another USIA report dealt with the books published in Mongolia during 1955 and 1956.

3. Projects Planned:

a. To prepare a paper incorporating specific examples of the contribution overt publications have made to intelligence research. This statement would serve in part as an evaluation to field collectors, indicating to them how some of their contributions have been used.

b. To insure that personnel engaged in interrogation work have adequate requirements for information on foreign publications.

c. To establish a means and schedule for reporting by members concerning the scope of their procurement programs, including exchanges.

d. To review the systems of reporting acquisitions by the member agencies and suggest improvements where needed.

B. EXPLOITATION

1. Responsibility: To assist the Director of Central Intelligence in insuring the coordination of the preparation and dissemination of English-language excerpts, summaries, abstracts, and compilations from foreign language publications.

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2. Projects Completed:

a. During the first half year the Subcommittee completed a periodic survey of the entire Foreign Documents Division/CIA (FDD) reporting program and determined the best utilization of currently available resources to meet the highest priority needs of the intelligence community. In response to the resulting recommendations FDD made several adjustments in its reporting program. A second review of the Soviet Bloc program was completed by year end which resulted in some minor refinements being made by FDD.

b. The first program review during the year was accompanied by a detailed examination of those requirements of the intelligence community which could not be met by existing facilities. The Subcommittee reported its findings to the Advisory Committee in a special report dated 7 August 1956. The Advisory Committee reviewed these findings and recommended to the Director of Central Intelligence in memorandum dated 14 December 1956 that he authorize and direct immediate augmentation of the appropriate operating facility of the Central Intelligence Agency to fulfill the requirements of the intelligence community for exploitation of foreign-language materials for intelligence purposes. The DCI approved the recommendation on 1 March 1957 and the necessary action to implement has been taken by CIA.

c. Transliteration. The Subcommittee members examined the transliteration systems in use by the IAC agencies and there was general agreement of members to use the CIA standard transliteration systems as carried in CIA Handbook 50-150-1.

d. Standard Translations. A report was submitted to the Subcommittee by a Working Group composed of representatives of each of the IAC agencies appointed for the purpose of arriving at a standardized basic list of translations of Chinese Communist organizational and other generic terms. The Subcommittee approved the report and there was general agreement on the use of this list by all members.

e. Coordination. The following coordination action was taken during the year:

(1) Hong Kong Press Monitoring Service and FDD are exchanging periodic notice of anticipated and completed translations from Chinese Communist publications thus reducing duplication in this area.

(2) Continuing discussions have been held with Air Intelligence with a view toward reducing duplication of exploitation effort between FDD, AID and Air Intelligence Service Units in the Far East and Europe. The Air Force member of the Subcommittee reported in October that the exploitation program of the 7050th Air Wing in Europe would be modified to avoid duplication with FDD and AID.

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(3) At the request of the Subcommittee on Procurement, the Exploitation Subcommittee reviewed the development by Consultants Bureau of a proposed program of translation of a number of Soviet scientific and technical periodicals. FDD will list production of Consultants Bureau in its CTS publication for coordination purposes. Each agency will take action for procurement from Consultants Bureau ad libitum.

(4) Through recommendation of the Subcommittee the IAC agencies provided appropriate translations to the Scientific Translation Center formerly in the Library of Congress now at John Crerar Library, Chicago, so that they may be made available for US scientific research.

(5) The Subcommittee reviewed the proposed contract between Department of State and "Current Digest of the Soviet Press" whereby the latter would undertake to provide an alternative service when Joint Press Reading Service, Moscow was discontinued. This review was for the determination of the value of JPRS or the alternative service to the intelligence community. It was determined that USIA and State Department required the service; the other agencies had only marginal interest.

f. Captured Documents. At the request of Department of the Army, the Subcommittee reviewed the interests of the intelligence community in certain World War II German documents obtainable by Army from the Netherlands Government. The Subcommittee reported to the Army that none of the members were interested due to the age of the documents.

3. Projects Planned:

a. The Subcommittee plans to conduct periodic reviews of the current FDD reporting programs and will review all such programs at least once during 1957.

b. Following implementing action on the Advisory Committee's recommendation for meeting the IAC requirements for information from foreign publications not now being provided, the Subcommittee will provide guidance and review the products developed under this project so as to assure their meeting the IAC needs.

c. At the request of the Subcommittee, FDD plans to issue a revised report on "Exploitation of Foreign Language Publications" which was last issued in April 1955 and a revised "Listing of Publications Regularly Received by FDD."

d. The Subcommittee will continue to take coordinating action for avoidance of unnecessary duplication among activities of the intelligence community engaged in the exploitation of foreign language publications and insofar as possible with other activities in the same field.

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C. REFERENCE

1. Responsibility: To insure the coordination of IAC indexing and control measures which provide access by subject to foreign language publications.

2. Projects Completed:

a. Inter-agency study of possible new systems for processing and retrieval by subject of all categories of intelligence source materials, including foreign language publications, led in May 1955 to the establishment by the IAC of an Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Information Processing (AHIP) to coordinate future developments in this field. Membership in the new subcommittee coincided with that of the Reference Subcommittee, both as to Agency, and, in most instances, as to personal representation. As a result, many topics taken up by AHIP have had direct bearing on Reference Subcommittee objectives and in the absence of AHIP would have fallen to this group. In recognition of this situation, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Foreign Language Publications on 13 January 1956, directed suspension of meetings of the Reference Subcommittee and a joining of forces with AHIP so long as the latter continues in existence.

b. During 1956 AHIP adopted and the IAC community began use of:

(1) a common IAC inter-library loan form

(2) a common information report numbering system

(3) common standards for third agency reproduction of intelligence documents classified SECRET and below.

3. Projects Planned: At the start of 1957, AHIP Working Groups were investigating the possibilities for coordinated IAC policy in the following areas:

a. Document security indications,

b. Common intelligence report format,

c. Equipment research,

d. Area coding systems, and

e. Inter-library loans.

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Chairman